

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF 2004 STATE OF MICHIGAN VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNER DORRENE GILBERT, OF GRAND LEDGE, MI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise today to recognize Dorrene Gilbert, whose generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service has earned her the 2004 State of Michigan Volunteer Award.

Dorrene is an enthusiastic and energetic promoter of Grand Ledge, especially its historic and cultural projects. For forty years, she has notably spearheaded activities for the Grand Ledge Area Historical Society, the Art Guild, Ledge's Playhouse, Ledge Craft Lane, the Garden Club, Lincoln Brick Park, Michigan Week, and her church. Dorrene is extremely creative and well known for her cultural endeavors and bringing beauty to the community.

A founder of the Art Guild, Dorrene served as its president in the 1960s. She was Artist of the Month chairman for Ledge Craft Lane, a non-profit arts and crafts center, in the 1970s and still serves there as a volunteer. Known for her talent as a writer who has been publicity or promotion chairman for many groups in town, Dorrene has written and produced plays for church and for several style shows as fundraisers for the Opera House and Historical Society.

Having always been interested in gardens and nature, Dorrene has devoted a great deal of time and effort to the Garden Club and its projects. She has served as president twice, and program chairman many times, while remaining a long time geranium sale promoter and working on the gardens at the restored Opera House in downtown Grand Ledge. Dorrene has also been involved with the Memorial Tree Trail, where over 300 crab trees have been planted on the streets and in the parks in Grand Ledge in honor of or as memorials to residents.

When Dorrene's husband passed away, she decided that she wanted to do something special in his memory. She wanted to promote recreation and historical traditions at the Lincoln Brick Park, which, at the time, was just being developed. The Brick Factory on the park's grounds had been a part of his family's heritage. Working with the park staff, she helped develop the Ashley Gilbert Memorial Historical Trail. When her son passed away, Dorrene wanted to add something educational and beautiful to Lincoln Brick Park once again. The David Gilbert Memorial Sugar Bush, with 105 maples and dogwoods, was born from memorial funds, family contributions and a grant. She has also encouraged the Garden Club to plant at Lincoln Brick Park and is a

contributor and supporter of the Lincoln Brick 100 Club.

Furthermore, as a board member of the Grand Ledge Area Historical Society, Dorrene has chaired and presented several programs on the history of Grand Ledge over the years. She is currently planning a vintage clothing style show as a fundraiser for the Historical Society. Dorrene has also spearheaded Festive Tables at the Opera House during the Historical Society Annual Holiday Home Tour for several years. She has served her church as the Sunday School Superintendent, a Church Council Member, Fine Arts and Decoration Chairman, and often handles its publicity. Dorrene also wrote and produced a play on the 125 years of the church. She has served on Michigan Week Committees for nearly forty years as promotion and publicity chairman, hospitality chairman, and in recent years, on the Awards Committee. The list of her activities is vast, diverse, and always growing.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I join her many friends, admirers, fellow volunteers, and the people of Grand Ledge in extending our highest praise and congratulations to Dorrene Gilbert for winning the 2004 State of Michigan Volunteer Leadership Award. Her personal interest and active participation in her community are deeply appreciated and should serve as an example for us all.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MILLER WICK-LIFFE "WICK" LAWRENCE, JR.

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual from my district, Dr. Miller Wickliffe "Wick" Lawrence, Jr., who was just inducted post-mortem into the Corney Creek Hall of Fame. Dr. Wick's tireless service and genuine commitment to his patients, family and community were truly remarkable and inspiring.

Born in 1912 and raised in Bernice, Louisiana, he was a graduate of Bernice High School and Louisiana Tech University. While he aspired to a career in dentistry, the nation was suffering through the Depression, and his career was postponed while he taught chemistry at Bernice High School. In 1934, he enrolled in the Atlanta Southern Dental College, marrying Cortez Hicks along the way. Dr. Wick and his new bride returned to Bernice upon his graduation and he set up a practice, which he maintained for 40 years.

Dr. Wick served in the United States Army Dental Corp, enlisting at Fort Walters, Texas with assignments at Camp Livingston, Louisiana; Fort Lewis, Washington; Brigham City, Utah; Camp Beale, California and Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. He was honorably discharged in 1946 with the rank of Major.

Dr. Wick was a member of the Fifth District Dental Society, the American Dental Association,

the Fellowship in the Academy of General Dentistry, the Louisiana Dental Association, and the Phi Omega Dental Fraternity. He was a founding member of the Bernice Volunteer Fire Department and served as town councilman for Bernice for 24 years. An avid horseman, he held memberships in the Louisiana Quarter Horse Association, the American Hereford Association and the American Junior Quarter Horse Association. Dr. Wick was also involved with the Louisiana Farm Bureau, the Union Parish Farm Bureau, the Louisiana Forestry Association and the Louisiana Cattleman's Association.

Dr. Wick was also heavily involved and supportive of youth programs in Union Parish. As a former Boy Scout, he donated money and volunteered as a merit badge counselor to Troop 48 of Bernice and Troop 59 of Ruston. His generosity was also bestowed in time and money to the Ouachita Valley Council and the Thunderbird District. Dr. Wick strongly believed that every child who wanted an education should have one, and he provided financial assistance to many young people for college and business or technical school. He opened his office doors to dental graduates to work in his practice until they were secure enough to establish practices in neighboring towns.

Dr. Wick passed away in September of 1999 at the age of 87. He was a father and grandfather and was married to his wife Cortez for nearly 63 years. His life was rich, and he enriched the lives of others by the charitable giving of his time and money to so many community and youth organizations.

Dr. Wick deserves the honor of Congressional recognition, for his outstanding contributions to his family, our community and our state and I am proud to recognize his notable accomplishments and manifold contributions.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT DE LA VIÑA ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American and one of my constituents, Mr. Robert R. De la Viña. Mr. De la Viña's life has been one of dedication. Dedication to his country, his community, his family, and his faith. Born in Edinburg, Texas on April 9, 1914, Robert De la Viña made a name for himself early in his youth as a self taught musician and award winning trumpet soloist. After high school, Mr. De la Viña received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas A&I College in Kingsville, Texas in 1937. It was after this period, that he returned to the Rio Grande Valley and started his long career in public education.

After teaching five years, however, his career as an educator was interrupted by the call

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